

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 027395

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/RA:HMMONTGOMERY:JR

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

NEA/EX:JCONNALLY (SUBS)

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NEA/RA:SEPALMER, JR.

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, GR, LE, XF, AMGT

SUBJECT: RELOCATION OF BEIRUT TRDO

REF: (A) STATE 17303, (B) STATE 19937

1. STATE AND COMMERCE REQUEST EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON TEMPORARY TRANSFER TO ATHENS OF BEIRUT RTDO JAMES LEFEAVER AND DEPUTY RTDO EDWARD KINNEAR THROUGH JUNE 30, 1976. FOR REASONS OUTLINED IN REFTTEL A, RELOCATION IN ATHENS APPEARS BEST OPTION AT THIS TIME AND EMBASSY'S ACCOMMODATION IN THIS RESPECT COULD BE OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE TO RTDO'S CARRYING OUT KEY JOBS IN MIDDLE EAST DURING THIS PERIOD.

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PAGE 02 STATE 027395

2. CURRENT PROJECTION OF PRINCIPAL RTDO ACTIVITY THROUGH JUNE 30 INCLUDES (A) PROCUREMENT DURING FEBRUARY-MARCH, IN ATHENS AND ELSEWHERE, FOR USG PARTICIPATION IN DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR JULY 25-AUGUST 20; (B) SUPPORTING CAIRO INTERNATIONAL FAIR BY DETAILING RTDO DEPUTY AS OPERATIONS DIRECTOR FOR 45-DAY PERIOD FEBRUARY 15-MARCH 30; AND (C) PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY IN SAUDI ARABIA BY DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR APRIL 1-MAY 20.
3. WE ARE NOT AT THIS TIME PROPOSING RELOCATION OF ANY RTDO LOCAL POSITIONS. HOWEVER, DURING NEXT 45 DAYS IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR ONE SENIOR PROFESSIONAL FROM BEIRUT TO TDY IN ATHENS AND ELSEWHERE TO ASSIST DIRECTOR WITH PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS FOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SHOW SCHEDULED FOR JIDDA MAY 8-13.
4. THIS FULLY-COORDINATED REQUEST MADE ON UNDERSTANDING THAT TEMPORARY RELOCATION OF RTDO AND DEPUTY ARE SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE CHANGE ON BASIS OF RESULTS OF (A) CURRENT GOVERNMENT-WIDE REVIEW OF ALL REGIONAL POSITIONS OVERSEAS OR (B) CHANGE IN ATTITUDE OF GOG.
5. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS AT EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. INGERSOLL

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